



Appointments and Briefings

March 12, 2007 - **Agenda**

City Council Chamber, Room 214 – Municipal Building

View Minutes

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I. Citizen's Input Time – Not to exceed the first thirty (30) minutes of the meeting.

INVITEES: NO ONE SIGNED UP TO SPEAK AT CITIZENS INPUT TIME.

2. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of RONALD A. DURGIN as COMMISSIONER OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES, effective January 28, 2007, at a salary of \$68,279. (Ref'd 1/25/07)

INVITEES: Ronald A. Durgin

3. City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting list of 7 PARAMEDICS for confirmation as "PARAMEDIC-INTERMITTENT;" also requesting RESIDENCY WAIVERS on 4 as follows:

Kevin Lent, 353 Shaw Street, New Bedford, MA, 02745

Gillian Sampson, 291 Pope Street, New Bedford, MA, 02740

Jason Silva, 177 Bolton Street New Bedford, MA, 02744 Sean Keener, 31 Buena Vista Avenue, Assonet, MA, 02702 (Waiver Requested) Steven Hierholcher, 60 Cyprus Road, South Dennis, MA (Waiver Requested) Michael Gillis, 71 Pond Road, Duxbury, MA, 02332 (Waiver Requested) John Moss 267 Wood Street, Bristol, RI, 02809 (Waiver Requested)(Ref'd 1/25/07)

INVITEES: Acting EMS Director James Trout; Sean Keener; Michael Gillis; John Moss

4. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Ms. McCoy, Jennie Costa, Cultural Development Office and someone from the School Department for the purpose of discussion as to when the re-dedication of the Andrea McCoy Plaque will take place; the plaque was removed from former Andrea McCoy site where the present Keith Middle School is being built, and, to this point, there has been no conversation with the McCoy family or anyone else regarding this plaque. This is the second request this Councillor is putting in requesting that this information be passed along, and a meeting be held with all parties so that a re-dedication of the Andrea McCoy Plaque can take place in the near future. (Ref'd 7/20/06)

INVITEES: Ms. McCoy; Jeanne Costa; Superintendent of Schools Michael E. Longo; Cultural Affairs Constituent Services Liaison, Nora Andino

5. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings contact a representative of Verizon to discuss their ability to provide communities with cable television; further, that we contact the communities of Marion and Mattapoisett to ascertain what the guiding factors were which led to their decision to award their cable contacts to Verizon. (Ref'd 9/14/06)

INVITEES: Verizon Public Affairs Manager Richard Colon; City Solicitor Atty. Irene B. Schall

6. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and the City of New Bedford reconsider the sale of the New Bedford Lightship, in light of its historical importance to the City of New Bedford; and further, that the City try to work with Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and/or any other entity available, in order to make the necessary repairs to the Ship to keep it afloat in New Bedford Harbor as part of our tourist attractions. (Ref'd 9/28/06)

INVITEES: City Solicitor Atty. Irene B. Schall

7. WRITTEN MOTION/RECONSIDERATION, Councillor Saunders, having voted with the prevailing side on the question of COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW – 94 FRONT STREET (CULTIVATOR CLUB) a 1 story cinder block building, advising that the building, constructed in 1931, is a priority 3 Building, not a “mission essential” structure, not constructed during the park’s period of significance (1760-1920) and must meet conditions approved by the NBHC, per Chapter 40C of MGL; therefore, the NBHC has determined that, although the building IS in a National Register Historic District, it is “NOT an historically significant building or structure and not preferably preserved.” and that “A demolition permit may be granted if conditions of the Certificate of Appropriateness are met.” (Ref'd 11/9/06, tabled 2/12/07)

7a. COMMUNICATION/BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW: 94 Front Street. (Ref'd 11/9/06, tabled 2/12/07)

INVITEES: Cultivator Club Agent Dennis Keohane; Cultivator Club Owner Paul A. LaChapelle; New Bedford Historical Commission Chairperson Joan M. Beaubian; City Planner David Kennedy; Abutters

8. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and the Planning Department look at a Master Plan for the City of New Bedford to include the possibility of designating an area to be called “Downtown North,” from Rt. 6 to the Weld Square area, thereby giving an opportunity to that area to revitalize and rebirth its Business District, which would be referred to as “Downtown North.” (Ref'd 11/9/06)

INVITEES: City Planner David Kennedy

9. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting on behalf of several constituents in Ward 5, that the Appointments and Briefings Committee meet with the Board of Assessors, as soon as possible, to discuss the apparent inconsistencies in property valuations, during the last re-evaluation process that has impacted the 2007 tax bills. (Ref'd 1/11/07)

INVITEES: Board of Assessors Administrative Asst. Peter S. Barney; Board of Assessors Members: Chairman Martin E. Treadup, Robert Pacheco, Peter E. Berthiaume; Ward 5 Constituents: James & Diana Henry, Martha Crowley, Leo Schick, Al Saulnier, Norbert Demers, Susan Jadowe, Armand Marchand, William Pitt, Dr. John Walkowicz, Ronald Mack, Katie Gilfeather

10. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Alves, asking that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the Principals of the Clark’s Cove Development Company, the Chairman, Co-Chairpersons & Representatives of the Portuguese Cultural Center Committee and the Administration to review and discuss the practices, procedures and criteria used to evaluate the past two submissions by said Company received by the City of New Bedford, and to discuss why the two proposals submitted by the Clarks Cove Development Company (the only developer to respond twice) to use the former Goodyear

site was denied, in light of the fact the full City Council had previously voted and expressed our interest and support for the site, and the Developers' commitment to provide a Certification at the time of the sale the property that would meet all criteria as outlined in the RFP, and that the sale could/would be contingent upon the removal of the AUL (Activity and Use Limitation) on the property to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 1/25/07)

INVITEES: Portuguese Cultural Center Committee Chairman Rep. Antonio F.D. Cabral; Portuguese Cultural Center Committee Co-Chairpersons: Councillors Joe F. DeMedeiros and Debora Coelho; Clark's Cove Development Co., LLC Principals: John E. Williams, Esq., Curtis Mello, John Pereira; Rep. Of the Mayor Nelson Ostiguy; City Solicitor Atty. Irene B. Schall

11. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that the City Council go on record in support of Governor Deval Patrick's plan to assess a safety fee for inmates within the prison system in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and further, that this letter also be sent to our local State Delegation stating that the New Bedford City Council supports this initiative, and should it come to a vote, we are requesting that they vote in favor; and further, that as the City Council goes on record in support of the plan, that we partner with the Town of Acushnet and their plan to seek that those fees be returned to the Cities and Towns. (Ref'd 1/25/07)

INVITEES: Town of Acushnet Board of Selectman Members: Robert F. Brown, David E. Wojnar, Michael A. Cioper; State Senator Mark C.W. Montigny; State Representatives: Stephen R. Canessa, Robert M. Koczera, Antonio F. D. Cabral, John F. Quinn

12. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gonsalves, Morad, Pimental and Gomes, requesting that the City Council invite the Members of the Board of Health to the next Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss our concerns regarding the hiring process for the Director of Health, which has resulted in the hiring/firing and reinstatement of the current Director. (Ref'd 1/25/07)

INVITEES: Board of Health Chairperson Barbara A. Silva; Board of Health Members: Dr. Patricia L. Andrade, Dr. James Schweidenback

Chairman suggests "No Further Action" be taken on the following items:

13. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the city look into establishing a Personal Property Exemption from Taxation for the purpose of giving a tax break to our seniors over the age of 60 who volunteer to provide services to the City of New Bedford and submitting correspondence from Bonnie Howland on same. (Ref'd 2/23/06) ***Referred to the Mayor, and is currently in progress in the Committee on Veterans Affairs, Elderly, Health, Housing & Disability Issues.***

14. Related Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the Whaling City Festival Staff, Police Chief Teachman and a representative from the mayor's Office for the purposes of putting in some Rules and Regulations that will govern over the Whaling City Festival when held. (Ref'd 7/20/06) ***The Festival Committee is working with the Police and Friends of Buttonwood, as it relates to this motion.***

15. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Koczera, requesting that the Council's Committee on Appointments and Briefings request the presence of Johnson Turf Management to answer questions about the deplorable conditions of the golf course, conditions that include among others - cart paths that are a mess and need repair, wooden bridges falling apart, insufficient ball cleaners, lack of drinking water containers and, basically, not living up to the standards set in their 35-year lease with the City. (Ref'd 8/17/06)

16. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Pimental, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings be DISCHARGED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION ON THE MATTER of the Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting a request for a WAIVER OF RESIDENCY for MS. ANA ROSA, 52 BUTTONWOOD ROAD, DARTMOUTH, MA 02748, as ASSISTANT CIVIL ENGINEER in the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Infrastructure - matter Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, IN CITY COUNCIL, January 25, 2007; and further, requesting that Rule 40 be Waived so that Ms. Rosa may immediately begin her employment, if the Council grants the ONE-YEAR Residency Waiver. (Ref'd 2/8/07) ***Formal Council Discharged the Committee, and approved waiver.***

Chairman suggests "Following Recommended Action" on the following items:

17. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting request that SEARS COURT, from Purchase Street to Pleasant Street be DISCONTINUED. (Ref'd 2/8/07) ***Refer to Ordinance Committee.***

17a. COMMUNICATION, Duarte M. Andrade, Acting City Engineer, to Council President Pimental, submitting METES AND BOUNDS and MAP for the DISCONTINUANCE of SEARS COURT, from Purchase Street to Pleasant Street. (Ref'd 2/8/07) ***Refer to Ordinance Committee.***

17b. AN ORDER, Requesting City Solicitor to prepare a LAYOUT ORDER prior to Hearing Date. (Ref'd 2/8/07) ***Refer to Ordinance Committee.***

17c. AN ORDER, For HEARING on MARCH 08, 2007. (Ref'd 2/8/07) ***Refer to Ordinance Committee.***

18. Written Motion, Councillor Pina, requesting, that the Administration establish a Civilian Review Board comparable to the one already in place in Providence, Rhode Island. (Ref'd 1/11/07) ***Refer to Public Safety & Neighborhoods Committee.***